

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EIND, CY, TU

SUBJ: PROTECTION OF U.S. PROPERTY IN TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA OF
CYPRUS

REF: (A) 75 STATE 248646, (B) 75 NICOSIA 3513, (C) 75 NICOSIA 3537,
(D) NICOSIA 0070

1. DCM AND EMBOFF CALLED ON TURKISH EMBASSY COUNSELLOR OYMEN FEBRUARY 26 TO DISCUSS PROTECTION OF U.S. PROPERTY IN TURKISH-CONTROLLED AREA OF CYPRUS. EMBOFF'S STRESSED IMPORTANCE TO BOTH TURKEY AND U.S. OF MAKING PROGRESS ON PROPERTY QUESTIONS AND BRIEFLY REVIEWED FIVE BROAD AREAS (REF A) WHERE PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE: CONSULAR ACCESS, RELAXATION OF PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROCEDURES, REMOVAL OF PROPERTY, RESTORATION OF PROPERTY, AND EQUITABLE PROCEDURES FOR COMPENSATION (INCLUDING ALLOWING AMCITS OF GREEK ORIGIN TO REGISTER). EMBOFFS RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED BUT HOPED THAT MORE PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN SOME OF THESE AREAS. ONE SUCH AREA WAS PURELY COMMERCIAL CASES OF U.S. - OWNED GOODS STRANDED IN FAMAGUSTA WAREHOUSES. EMBOFFS GAVE OYMEN LIST OF SEVEN SUCH CASES (WILSON SPORTING GOODS, PHB INTERNATIONAL, 3-M HELLAS LTD., HOBART CORP., SCHEFFRES INTERNATIONAL, ANCHOR HOCHING CORP, AND LOWELL MFG CO.) AND NOTED THAT THESE HAD BEEN
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BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF TURK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES BUT

WITHOUT SATISFACTORY RESULTS TO DATE.

2. OYMEN SAID GOT RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF PROPERTY PROBLEM AND NOTED THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FEYZIOGLY, DURING HIS VISIT TO CYPRUS IN EARLY FEBRUARY, HAD RAISED ISSUE. WHILE SOME ASPECTS WOULD UNAVOIDABLY HAVE TO AWAIT A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, HE SAID, IT WAS HOPED THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE "STEP BY STEP" ON OTHERS. IN PARTICULAR, PROCEDURES FOR RESTORING NON-GREEK OWNED COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES WERE BEING EXPEDITED; "UNNECESSARY SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION" WOULD NO LONGER BE REQUIRED. OYMEN SAID HE WOULD PASS LIST OF SEVEN COMPANIES TO "TFSC MINISTRY OF DEFENSE," WHICH HANDLES FOREIGN PROPERTY QUESTIONS, AND OPINED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THESE CASES COULD NOT BE SPEEDILY AND SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

3. EMBOFFS ALSO ASKED IF TURKISH EMBASSY COULD HELP ON CONSULAR ACCESS. TURK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES HAD TURNED DOWN TWO REQUESTS FOR CONSULAR ACCESS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY FOLLOWING OUR PREVIOUS DEMARCHE (REF C). OYMEN EXPLAINED AGAIN THAT BASIC PROBLEM HERE WAS GREEK ORIGIN OF MANY OF OUR CITIZENS. PROPERTIES WERE PURCHASED BY THESE PEOPLE AS "ALIEN NATIVE" CYPRIOTS RATHER THAN AS FOREIGNERS. ADDITIONAL PROBLEM WAS THAT OTHER THIRD PARTY COUNTRIES, MOST IMPORTANTLY U.K., RECOGNIZED DUAL NATIONALITY AND THAT IN DEALING WITH PROPERTY QUESTION, TURKS COULD NOT PURSUE ONE POLICY WITH AMERICANS WITHOUT CONSIDERING EFFECT IT MIGHT HAVE ELSEWHERE. NEVERTHELESS, OYMEN STRESSED, GOT RECOGNIZED IN PRINCIPLE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN CITIZENS IN NORTH AND IT WAS NOW A QUESTION OF FINDING PROPER FORMULA WHICH COULD OVERCOME VARIOUS PROBLEMS. OYMEN INDICATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE MOVEMENT ON ETHNICITY QUESTION WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. OYMEN ALSO SAID THAT ONCE A FORMULA IS FOUND, CONSULAR ACCESS WILL BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL. AT EMBOFFS' REQUEST, OYMEN ALSO UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO AND FACILITATE THE CASE OF AN AMCIT (OF NON-ETHNIC GREEK BACKGROUND) WITH PERSONAL MOVABLE PROPERTY

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IN FAMAGUSTA.

4. COMMENT: COMPARED TO PAST DISCUSSIONS ON PROPERTY MATTERS, OYMEN WAS POSITIVE AND FORTHCOMING. FACT THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FEYZIOGLY RAISED QUESTION DURING HIS VISIT IS WELCOME INDICATION THAT GOT MAY FINALLY BE BEGINNING TO GRAPPLE WITH THORNY PROPERTY QUESTION.

END COMMENT.

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